

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image heating apparatus comprising:  
a rotatable member contactable to a recording material  
carrying an image; and  
5 a limiting member for limiting movement of said  
rotatable member in a direction of a generating  
line of said rotatable member,  
wherein said limiting member is provided with a  
surface opposed to an outer peripheral surface at an  
10 end portion of said rotatable member.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further  
comprising a roller, contacted to said rotatable  
member, for forming, with said rotatable member, a nip  
15 for nipping the recording material.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein  
said rotatable member is flexible such that when the  
nip is formed, said rotatable member is deformed.  
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4. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein in  
the peripheral surface of said rotatable member  
includes a surface portion which is in contact to the  
opposed surface of said limiting member and a surface  
25 portion which is out of contact from the opposed  
surface of said limiting member, when the nip is  
formed.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein  
said limiting member rotates with said rotatable  
member by friction at the surface portion which is in  
contact to the opposed surface of said limiting  
5 member.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 2 , wherein  
when said rotatable member and said roller are spaced  
from each other, a diameter of a surface opposed to  
10 the peripheral surface of said limiting member is  
larger than a diameter of the peripheral surface of  
said rotatable member.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein an  
15 outer diameter  $a$  of said rotatable member, and a  
difference  $\delta t$  between a diameter of a surface of said  
limiting member opposed to the peripheral surface of  
said limiting member and a diameter of the peripheral  
surface of said rotatable member, satisfy  
20  $0.009$  is equal to or smaller than  $\delta t/a$  which is equal  
to or smaller than  $0.03$ .

8. An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein  $\delta t$   
is  $0.3 \text{ mm}$ - $1.0 \text{ mm}$ .

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9. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein  
said limiting member further includes a second surface

for receiving an end surface of said rotatable member,  
and an angle formed between the surface opposed to the  
outer peripheral surface and the second surface is  
larger than 90 degrees.

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10. An apparatus according to Claim 2 , further  
comprising a holder for rotatably holding said  
limiting member.

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11. An apparatus according to Claim 10 , wherein  
said holder is effective to limit movement of said  
limiting member in the direction of the generating  
line.

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12. An apparatus according to Claim 10 , further  
comprising a guiding member for guiding said rotatable  
member inside said rotatable member, wherein said  
holder is directly or indirectly fixed to said guiding  
member.

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13. An apparatus according to Claim 1 , wherein  
said limiting member is made of heat-resistive resin  
material.

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14. An apparatus according to Claim 1 , wherein  
said rotatable member has a metal layer.

15. An apparatus according to Claim 14, further  
comprising a coil for generating a magnetic field for  
inducing eddy currents in said metal layer, wherein  
the image on the recording material is heated by heat  
5 from said metal layer in which heat is produced by the  
eddy currents.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 1 , further  
comprising a heater contacted to an inner peripheral  
10 surface of said rotatable member, wherein the image on  
the recording material is heated by heat from said  
heater through said rotatable member.

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